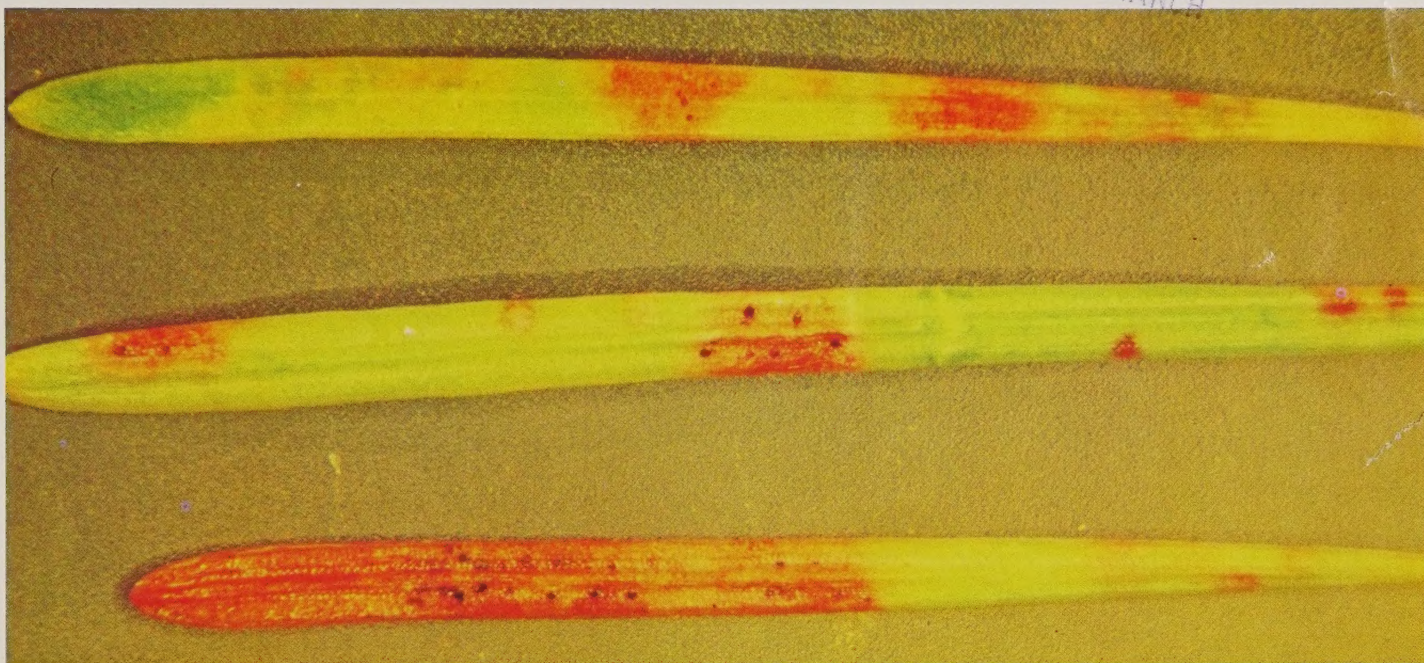


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NEEDLECAST OF EUROPEAN LARCH



A disease of European larch, *Larix decidua*, was detected recently in Wisconsin and Iowa. A species of the fungus *Mycosphaerella* is the probable cause of this disease.

Disease symptoms may be noticed any time from late June to September when needles turn yellow and later brown. Next, they fall off, much earlier than the normal autumn needle fall of larch. New needles may be produced on affected branches during the same season that defoliation occurs, but these also may become infected. LOOK FOR: defoliation, off-color needles, and fruiting bodies on needles.

European larch is noted for its rapid growth and shows promise as a source of pulpwood and lumber in this country. Thus, information about its pests is necessary to determine the risks and benefits of growing this tree. The disease has not been observed on our native larch (tamarack) but if observed, should be reported.

Infected larch needles with dark fruiting bodies (pycnidia). (Photo provided by Dr. R.F. Patton, Univ. of WI)



Disease symptoms on European larch needles.



Send reports of damage to:

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Premature defoliation of European larch.
(Photo provided by Dr. R.F. Patton)